



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/809,917 | 03/25/2004 | Taro Suzuki | 1300-000018 | 6749 |
| 27572 | 7590 | 03/03/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C. | | | HESS, BRUCE H | |
| P.O. BOX 828 | | | | |
| BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303 | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 1774 | |

DATE MAILED: 03/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/809,917 | SUZUKI ET AL. |
| Examiner | Art Unit | |
| Bruce H. Hess | 1774 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 9-21-04 (IDS)

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9-21-04

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 USC 102 (b) as being anticipated by the patent to Christian et al. (EP 1 011 020 A2).

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the patent to Christian et al.

Christian et al. teach a thermal transfer image-receiving sheet having a dye-receptive layer located on one side of a substrate. An electrically conductive layer can be located either between the substrate and the image-receiving layer or on the back of the substrate. The conductive layer can contain Laponite S (see page 5, lines 56 and 57) which is one of applicants' preferred synthetic phyllosilicates having a particle diameter of not more than 30 nm (see page 6, line 7). The experimental modification of this prior art in order to ascertain optimum operating conditions (e.g., determine the surface resistivity of the conductive layer) fails to render applicants' claims patentable in the absence of unexpected results. The pertinent portions of the patent to Christian et al. are noted on the International Search Report submitted by applicants.



BRUCE H. HESS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1300